

Message Text

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62/53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 IO-15 AF-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /150 W

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O P 141819Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 109

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 08075

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. RADIO NEWS AT 1:30 PM DESCRIBED HEAVY FIGHTING ON BOTH FRONTS, EGYPTIANS LAUNCHED NEW OFFENSIVE IN SINAI, ISRAELIS REPULSED SYRIAN ATTACKS IN NORTH. MILITARY COMMENTATOR HAIM HERZOG IN 1 PM BROADCAST STATED (IN HEBREW) ISRAELIS HAVE MOVED TO NEW POSITIONS IN SINAI. IN 1:30 PM BROADCAST

HE (IN ENGLISH) EXPLAINED EGYPTIAN ATTACKS CONSISTENT WITH EGYPT'S TACTICAL AIM TO BREAK OUT OF DEFENSIVE
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POSITIONS. HE BELIVED CAMPAIGN NOW ENTERING CRITICAL

PHASE BUT NOT CLEAR IF THIS IS "THE" MAJOR EGYPTIAN OFFENSIVE.

2. ISRAEL ENTERED SECOND WEEK OF WAR SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY MILITARY GAINS ON SYRIAN FRONT, REPORTED SMASHING OF IRAQI FORCES, REPORTS THAT DAMASCUS IN ARTILLERY RANGE, REASSURANCES BY PRIME MINISTER THAT ISRAEL WILL EVENTUALLY WIN, AND WIDELY REPORTED STORIES IN PRESS AND RADIO CONCERNING REPLACEMENT BY USG OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOST DURING WAR. PUBLIC CONCERN APPEARS TO HAVE SHIFTED TO SINAI, WITH PROSPECTS OF LONG, BLOODY FIGHT, AND HEAVY LOSSES.

3. IN EFFORT TO REASSURE PUBLIC, MINDEF SPOKESMAN REPORT OCT12, APPEARING IN TODAY'S PRESS, STATED CASUALTIES SO FAR HAVE BEEN LESS THAN IN SIX DAY WAR (WHEN 679 SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION). MINDEF DENIED RUMORS THAT ISRAELI FEMALE SOLDIERS CAPTURED AND RAPED BY SYRIANS, NOTING THAT NO FEMALE SOLDIERS WERE OR ARE DEPLOYED ALONG FRONT LINES.

4. DECISION TO REOPEN SCHOOLS TODAY, CANCELLING SCHEDULED TEN-DAY FEAST OF TABERNACLES VACATION, MOST LIKELY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE KEEP KIDS OFF STREET AND, IN CASE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, FACILITATE THEIR MOBILIZATION FOR CIVILIAN TASKS. TEENAGERS BEING USED FOR WIDE VARIETY OF TASKS--IN POST OFFICES, HOSPITALS, GROCERY STORES, ETC. LARGE NUMBERS OBSERVED OVER PAST FEW DAYS BY EMBOFFS FILLING SANDBAGS NEAR COASTAL ROAD.

5. HEAVY FINANCIAL COST OF WAR BEING HAMMERED HOME TO ISRAELIS, WITH CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY ON EFFORTS RAISE VOLUNTARY WAR LOANS IN ADDITION COMPULSORY LOANS ALREADY ANNOUNCED. PRESIDENT KATZIR HAS URGED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE HEADED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR YITZHAK RABIN TO MOBILIZE VOLUNTARY LOANS. RADIO REPORTS LARGE NUMBERS ISRAELIS FROM ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY ALREADY PURCHASING BONDS, WITH GROWING PLEDGES BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

6. MANY SERVICES CURTAILED BUT NO SERIOUS HARDSHIPS
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REPORTED, AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS INCREASINGLY FILL GAP CREATED BY MOBILIZATION CALL-UP.

7. EL AL SPOKESMAN STATED IT IS STILL FLYING ALL REGULAR ROUTES, ALTHOUGH SCHEDULE BEING RESHUFFLED SUBJECT TO NEEDS OF THE HOUR. NOTED THAT EL AL IS OPERATING WITH ONE FOURTH ITS NORMAL MANPOWER AND THAT IT IS CONSIDERING CHARTERING AIRCRAFT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IF

NEED DEVELOPS.

8. P.M.'S ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISER TOLEDANO REPORTEDLY MET WITH ISRAELI ARAB AND DRUZE LEADERS CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EFFORTS MOBILIZE LABOR AND MONEY. ACCORDING RADIO NEWSCAST TOLEDANO STATED THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ISRAELI ARAB HELP IS MORE FORTHCOMING IN THIS WAR THAN IN 1967.

9. A NUMBER OF TELEPHONIC INQUIRIES FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PEOPLE COMING TO EMBASSY TO REGISTER HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE.
KEATING

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